

It was at six o'clock in the evening of the 15th that the Duke of Wellington received the first information of the advance of the French army; but it was not, however, until ten o'clock that positive news reached him that the French army had moved upon the left of the Sambre. This information induced him to push forward reinforcements on Quatre Bras, at which place he himself arrived at an early hour on the 16th, and immediately proceeded to lay, to devise measures with Marshal Blücher in order to combine their efforts. From the movement of considerable masses of the French in front of the Prussians it was evident that their first grand attack would be directed against them. That this was Napoleon's object on the 16th may be seen by his orders to Ney and Grouchy to turn the right of the Prussians, and drive the British from their position at Quatre Bras, and then to march down the *chawsee* upon Bry in order effectually to separate the two armies. Ney was accordingly detached for this purpose with 43,000 men. In the event of the success of Marshal Ney he would have been enabled to detach a portion of his forces for the purpose of making a flank attack upon the Prussians in the rear of St. Amand, whilst Napoleon in person was directing his main efforts against that village — the *Kroncst* in the Prussian position. Key's reserve was at *KniHites*, disposable either for the purpose of supporting the attack on Quatre Bras or that at St. Amand; and in case of Ney's complete success to turn the Prussian right flank by marching on Bry.

On the morning of the 16th Marshal Blücher concentrated the 1st, 2d, and 3d corps of his army, took up a position with his right wing at Bry and his left at Hombref, on a chain of gentle heights, and occupied in force the village\* of St. Amand and Ligny, the substantial buildings of which having been loopholed by the Prussians presented formidable defence\*. The right of this position communicated with the British at Quatre Bras, upon which point the Duke of Wellington was making every possible effort to concentrate his army. General Bulow, with the fourth Prussian corps, not daring to move from the distance of his position, near Ligny, to arrive in